



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 8th FW/PA

Lt. Col. Jennifer Perry, 8th Security Forces Squadron commander, and Senior Airman Ciara Simms, 8th Services Squadron fitness center specialist, talk on the Wolf Pack Radio.

Commanders debut radio program

*By Master Sgt. William Ackerman
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Two Kunsan Air Base unit commanders went “live” on the radio airwaves May 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. to provide instantaneous, just-in-time command information to Wolf Pack airmen.

In a change of pace from their normal duties, Lt. Col. Jennifer Perry, 8th Security Forces Squadron commander, and Maj. William “Bo” Schupp, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 613 commander, played deejays for a “commanders’ show” on American Forces Network-Korea Kunsan affiliate FM 88.5 here.

In a host-sidekick format, similar to the Late Show with David Letterman and Paul Schafer, Schupp and Perry bantered back and forth in between interviewing guests and playing requested music.

Schupp, an eight-year OSI veteran whose day-to-day duties include counterintelligence, antiterrorism and criminal investigations, eagerly took on the role as deejay for a day, complete with headphones and microphone.

After receiving a short on-the-job training session from AFN-K’s broadcaster Tech. Sgt. Sue Kyle, NCO in charge of radio operations, Schupp faced a daunting task of operating a digital audio board that included rows of buttons and volume control pods.

Taking the control board driver’s seat for the first time, Schupp looked at the audio board and declared, “Now, it really gets scary.”

The two commanders got the idea for the program after listening to similar shows airing on the radio’s airwaves by the 8th Fighter Wing commander, command chief master sergeant and first sergeants.

According to Schupp, radio allows commanders to disseminate their messages to the maximum amount of troops.

“Radio is a great medium because it reaches so

many people and work sections,” said Schupp. “It dovetails into our (OSI) mission of getting force-protection information to the Wolf Pack.”

Reaching the maximum audience is important, especially when the message needs to reach the entire base populace. A case in point. Perry and Schupp highlighted a previous incident that involved a security force member who confronted an individual who brandished a “realistic-looking” toy weapon. The incident had a potentially deadly outcome because the security force member was required to draw his weapon on the individual who brandished the weapon, fake or real, to ensure the officer’s safety and the public’s. Perry said that from a distance toy weapons and pellet guns appear real, and that’s why any weapons, real or fake, are not authorized on base.

Although the incident ended safely, Schupp pointed out to his listeners, “the individual was one-second from annihilation.”

However, force protection wasn’t the only topic of the hour. Perry also interviewed several guests, including an 8th SFS NCO about safety in American-Town (AKA “A-Town”) and an 8th Services Squadron airman about the wing’s “Sports Day” and Memorial Day events occurring during the upcoming weekend.

“What can you tell us about the Memorial Day block party,” Perry asked her guest.

“There’s going to be lots of activities, including food booths and live music all day,” said Senior Airman Ciara Simms, 8th SVS.

Perry explained how they determined the show’s content. “We wanted to balance the scope and briefly touch on something of interest to the entire Wolf Pack.”

In between making announcements, the OSI deejay took music requests from Wolf Pack listeners.

“Let’s roll into a little ‘Goo-Goo Dolls,’” Schupp announced over the airwaves as he gradually faded his microphone volume control down while gingerly bringing the music track’s volume up.

“It’s all an orchestrated set of movements,” Schupp explained.

With thousands of music titles on compact discs to select from, Perry and Schupp worked in concert to try and keep “dead air” time to a minimum. Aided by a computer-based music library called “Super Scheduler,” Schupp entered a music title or artist’s name, which then listed the disc number where the song was located. Then, Perry had to find the title among rows of compact discs in several metal cabinets.

“This is work,” Perry said.

Although the first-time deejays only planned the show’s content the night before, Kyle said they did a good job.

“I have to commend them on their preparation efforts. For their first time, they did excellent,” said Kyle.

Kyle also explained that it’s great that the commanders realize the value of radio.

“Radio is a direct link for the commanders to keep in touch with their squadrons,” Kyle said. “More importantly, the immediacy of radio allows commanders to disseminate base-wide messages to the entire Wolf Pack, such as the force-protection issues.”

Another benefit for the commanders’ radio show is anonymity. People can call into the show, ask their question “off the air” or remain anonymous, Kyle said.

“Sometimes people are reluctant to talk to the commanders or first sergeants on the air. The show’s host will take any calls off the air,” Kyle said

Although neither Schupp nor Perry has any broadcasting experience, when asked if he had a hidden desire to be a deejay, Schupp said, “Everybody did at one time or another.”

With their debut show nearing the end, Schupp and Perry contemplated how they wanted to close out the hour. With only 28 seconds remaining, the sign-off message was brief: “This has been great. Rock on Wolf Pack!” Schupp said.